

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 SAJ-01 PRS-01 PA-02 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TOKYO 9347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, JA, SU

SUBJECT: NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET DEPUTY  
FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV

REF: MOSCOW 9667

1. PARA. 2 IS FULL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE WHICH  
APPEARED NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN ("INDUSTRIAL DAILY")  
JULY 8, 1975.

2. QUOTE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT FOR YAKUTSK GAS  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITH US ATTITUDE ACTIVE, EVEN  
PROVIDING \$100 MILLION PRIVATE LOANS.  
THE YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION PROJECT, ONE OF  
SIX LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN SIBERIA TO BE  
CARRIED OUT IN A TRILATEAL VENTURE AMONG JAPAN,  
THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SOVIET UNION, IS NOW  
CONSIDERED A TEST CASE. SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE  
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MINISTER ALKHIMOV, NOW VISITING HERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH OFFICIALS OF JAPAN EXIMBANK CONCERNING BANK  
LOANS FOR THE PROJECT, HELD AN EXCLUSIVE PRESS  
INTERVIEW WITH A NIKKAN KOGYO REPORTER ABOUT PROSPECTS

FOR THE YAKUTSK GAS PROJECT. HE SAID THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE SOVIET UNION HAS CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR AS MUCH AS \$9,000 MILLION. TO PROCEED WITH THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN, THE SOVIETS WANT TO USE THESE FOREIGN CREDITS AND LOANS TO HELP CARRY OUT SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

2. AT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN TOKO, THE MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL BE DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING LOANS TO BE GRANTED FOR THE YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION PROJECT, PENDING FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, AND A CONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR AMONIUM PLANT FACILITIES. WE WANT TO MOVE THE YAKUTSK PROJECT AHEAD. PROSPECTS ARE VERY BRIGHT FOR THE YAKUTSK GAS PROJECT BECAUSE UNITED STATES CITY BANKS, INCLUDING CHASE MANHATTAN BANK AND BANK OF AMERICA, ARE TAKING AN ACTIVE STANCE TOWARD A \$100 MILLION LOAN IN THE FORM OF A CONSORTIUM IN LIEU OF CREDIT FACILITIES VIA US EXIMBANK.

3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENT AS AN REPLY TO THIS QUESTION. THE JAPANESE ARE RATHER REFLUCTANT TO COOPERATE UNLESS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAKES A POLICY CHANGE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. EVEN IF US CITY BANKS ARE PREPARED TO EXTEND CREDIT, WOULD IT NOT STILL BE DIFFICULT FOR JAPAN TO STEP FORWARD FROM THE EXPLORATION STAGE TO THE FULL-SCALE DEVELOPMENT STAGE?) THE PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE BEING IMPROVED STEADILY. PRESIDENT FORD IS TAKING A POSITION THAT IT WAS WRONG FOR THE UNITED STATES NOT TO GRANT MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. UNITED STATES SENATE LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY VISITED THE SOVIET UNION AND EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO EXERT EFFORTS TO HELP PRESUME THE GRANTING OF US EXIMBANK CREDIT FACILITIES TO THE

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SOVIET UNION. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POSSIBILITY THAT UNITED STATES' ATTITUDE WILL TURN FAVORABLY.

4. (QUESTION-IS IT FAIR TO DESCRIBE THE SENATORS' VISIT TO MOSCOW AS AN ADVANCE PARTY FOR A US-SOVIET SUMMIT TALK? AT THIS SUMMIT TALK WOULD BARRIERS TO US PARTICIPATION IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT BE REMOVED?) IT IS VERY HARD TO SPECULATE WHAT UNITED STATES LEADERS HAVE IN MIND. BUT BY STRENGTHENING EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, I WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH BARRIERS WOULD BE REMOVED AND THAT THINGS WOULD MOVE TOWARD A SOLUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION I BELIEVE

JAPAN WOULD HAV A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY.END QUOTE  
HODGSON

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